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NOTICE OF EX PARTE

August 5, 2016

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Investigation of Certain Price Cap Local Exchange Carrier Business Data Services Tariff Pricing Plans, WC Docket No. 15-247; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25 and RM-10593; Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment, WC Docket No. 16-143*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 3, 2016, Melissa Newman of CenturyLink, and Kathleen Abernathy and I, of Frontier Communications, met with Howard Symons, General Counsel, and Deena Shetler of the Wireline Competition Bureau, to discuss the broadband data services (BDS) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this docket.

CenturyLink and Frontier discussed that price regulation will distort and deter competition in the BDS market; prices set too low will preclude competitors from entering the market and deter further infrastructure investment in rural America, which is particularly costly to serve. We also discussed backhaul purchasing trends and described how carriers negotiate backhaul and other BDS agreements.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike Saperstein

Copy via email to:
Howard Symons
Deena Shetler